

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 02793 222103Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 A-01 OPR-02 CPR-01
OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 /041 W
-----089787 222105Z /64
O 222012Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1678
INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2793

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ITEMS OF TROPICAL INTEREST

REF: STATE 068547-C

SUMMARY: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO VENEZUELAN IN GENERAL WOULD
INCLUDE TRAFFIC; ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS; THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM;
FAMILY LIFE, INCLUDING WOMENS' RIGHTS AND ONE-PARENT
FAMILIES; THE DEATH OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE RENNY OTTOLINA;
AND, OF COURSE, THE WEATHER. END SUMMARY.

1. TRAFFIC - THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN CARACAS IS AN OUTGROWTH
OF TWO THINGS: CARACAS' GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND THE
RAPID INCREASES IN INCOME WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN A BOOMING
CAR MARKET. CARACAS IS LOCATED IN A VALLEY ABOUT 12 MILES
LONG AND THREE MILES WIDE (WITH SMALL OFFSHOOTS TO THE
SOUTH). IN THIS VALLEY THERE ARE ONE MAJOR RIVER AND A
POPULATION EQUAL TO THAT OF THE D.C. METRO AREA. GIVEN THE
PHYSICAL LIMITS OF THE CITY, TRAFFIC CONGESTION IS INEVITABLE
WHEN THE NUMBER OF CARS SOLD MONTHLY WOULD FORM A LINE 12.5
MILES LONG. RELIEF MAY BE IN SIGHT WHEN THE CARACAS METRO
IS COMPLETED IN 1985. IN THE MEANTIME, CARACAS IS SUFFERING
THE SAME SORT OF PROBLEMS WASHINGTON DID WITH TRAFFIC
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 02793 222103Z

RESTRICTED BY SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION.

2. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS - VENEZUELA HAS WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED
THE "ULTIMATE INTERNATIONAL STATUS SYMBOL"--ILLEGAL, OR
UNDOCUMENTED, IMMIGRANTS. THE BOOMING ECONOMY, WITH ITS
RESULTANT HIGH PAY SCALES AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,
HAS BROUGHT A LARGE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL ALIENS, PARTICULARLY

FROM COLOMBIA.

3. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM - VENEZUELA HAS A GREAT SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOR AND PROFESSIONALS, WHILE MONEY FOR EDUCATION IS AVAILABLE, THE STAINS ARE ENORMOUS. SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER 30, AND THE TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTORS NECESSARY TO EDUCATE THEM SIMPLY DO NOT EXIST IN THE COUNTRY. ONE ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACHUCHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH SENDS STUDENTS ABROAD FOR UNIVERSITY-LEVEL TRAINING, ESPECIALLY IN TECHNICAL FIELDS SUCH AS ENGINEERING. THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM IS ENORMOUS, WITH 4,500 STUDENTS IN THE U.S. ALONE. THE PROJECT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL, AND IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO PRESIDENT PEREZ.

4. FAMILY LIFE - THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN WITH THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE IN VENEZUELA. A NASCENT WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT HAS BEGUN TO VOICE CONCERN OVER THE TRADITIONAL CULT OF "MACHISMO" AND PERCEIVED FAVORITISM TOWARDS MEN IN DIVORCE LAWS. THERE IS ALSO GREAT CONCERN OVER THE NUMBER OF ONEPARENT FAMILIES IN VENEZUELA. (A LARGE NUMBER OF ALL BIRTHS ARE ILLEGITIMATE).

5. OTTOLINA'S DEATH - INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL PRE-CANDIDATE (THE CAMPAIGN DOES NOT OFFICIALLY OPEN UNTIL APRIL 1) RENNY OTTOLINA DIED IN A LIGHT PLANE CRASH ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CARACA 02793 222103Z

MARCH 16. WHILE NOT THOUGHT LIKELY TO WIN THE RACE, HE WAS VERY POPULAR IN VENEZUELA. HE BEGAN HIS RISE TO FAME AS A TELEVISION PERSONALITY. TO PARTIALLY UNDERSTAND HIS ROLE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF JOHNNY CARSON SERIOUSLY RAN FOR PRESIDENT IN THE U.S.

6. WEATHER - CARACS, THE CITY OF ETERNAL SPRING, REALLY HAS ONLY TWO SEASONS-- WET AND DRY. GENERALLY THERE ARE DAILY RAINS FROM MAY TO DECEMBER, WITH LITTLE OR NONE DURING THE REMAINING MONTHS. DURING LATE MARCH AND APRIL, FOREST FIRES ARE FREQUENTLY A PROBLEM, THE FIRST RAIN OF THE SEASON FELL SUNDAY, MARCH 19, AND PERHAPS THIS EARLY RAIN WILL PREVENT THE TRADITIONAL PROBLEM WITH FIRES THIS YEAR.

VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CARACA02793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-1003
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780339/aaaabgpj.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f76dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 68547
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3243583
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BACKGROUND ITEMS OF TROPICAL INTEREST
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f76dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014